Consultant and all the Licensors have been appointed by IOC. Basic Engineering Design for the refinery units & related infrastructure and selection of contractors for various site preparation jobs is in progress.

LPG connections in the Country

105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connection given in every State during 1999;

(b) the target fixed for providing LPG connection in every State by the end of December, 2000;

(c) the year in which LPG connection would be given to each applicant on demand; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The total number of LPG connections released by PSU Oil Marketing Companies during the year 1999 is 86,85,290. The state-wise breakup is given in the statement. (*See* below).

(b) to (d) LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Govt. has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

Statement

No. of new LPG connection released during January to December, 1999

State	No. of Connection Released
Chandigarh	96429
NCTD Delhi	983999
Haryana	370917
Himachal Pradesh	131904
Jammu & Kashmir	170142
Punjab	292021
Rajasthan	243535
Uttar Pradesh	903212
Andaman & Nicobar Island	7409
Arunachal Pradesh	24951
Assam	353332
Bihar	164201
Manipur	18424
Meghalaya	11083
Mizoram	24600
Nagaland	11279
Orissa	108584
Sikkim	6520
Tripura	57072
W. Bengal	547695
Dadra & N.H.	7142
Daman & Diu	7054
Goa	29454
Gujarat	478038
Madhya Pradesh	365145

Maharashtra	1039016
Andhra Pradesh	926678
Karnataka	409818
Kerala	168614
Lakshadweep	300
Pondicherry	55013
Tamil Nadu	658395
TOTAL :	8685290

Increases in the prices of petroleum products

106. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and kerosene in January this year;

(b) if so, the reasons that led to the increase in the prices of these petroleum products;

(c) the steps taken to avoid the frequent increase of these petroleum prices; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The ex-storage point prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and kerosene has not been increased by the Government in January this year. However, the retail selling prices have been revised in some States due to revision in Sales Tax rates by the respective State Governments.